



General	203
Buoyage System	203
Currency	203
Government	203
Holidays	203
Industries	203
Languages	204
Mined Areas	204
Pilotage	204
Time Zone	204
U.S. Embassy	204

General

The Solomon Islands, an independent nation within the British Commonwealth, consists of a double chain of six large islands and many smaller ones.

The islands are located in the South Pacific Ocean, E of Papua New Guinea, between 5°S and 12°S, and 155°E and 170°E.

The major islands are Guadalcanal, Malaita, San Cristobal, New Georgia, Santa Isabel, and Choiseul.

The chain, excluding Buka and Gougainville, which are part of Papua New Guinea, also includes the Antong Java Atolls N of the group, the Santa Cruz Islands to the E, and the raised atolls of Rennell and Bellona to the S.

Guadalcanal, the largest of the Solomon Islands, is about 93 miles long by 30 miles wide.

The climate is tropical monsoon with few extremes of temperature and weather.

The terrain is mostly rugged mountains with some low coral atolls.

Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region A) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

Currency

The official unit of currency is the Solomon Islands dollar, consisting of 100 cents.

Government

The Solomon Islands is a constitutional monarchy with a British Sovereign.

The national government is a Parliamentary Legislature with the Chief Minister being selected from the majority party of the Legislative Assembly.

District governments handle local affairs and there are four of these districts: Western, headquartered in Gizo; Central, headquartered in Honiara; Malaita, headquartered in Auki; and Eastern, headquartered in Kira Kira.

The capital is Honiara.

Holidays

The following holiday is observed:  
July 7, Independence Day.

Industries

The main industries are based on palm oil milling, rice milling, fish canning, fish freezing, saw milling, food, tobacco, and soft drink.

## Languages

The official language of the Solomon Islands is English.  
There are over 60 native dialects spoken.

## Mined Areas

1. Within Buka Passage, the area bounded by the parallel of 5°20'S, and by the meridians of 154°35'E and 154°48'E, is open to surface navigation only. Anchoring, trawling, and bottoming by submarines is dangerous due to sunken mines.

2. Within Bougainville Strait and its approaches, mines exist in the sea area N of a line joining the following positions:

- a. 6°53'30"S, 155°42'00"E.
- b. 6°48'45"S, 155°54'20"E.

3. The following swept channel and area are considered safe for surface navigation.

Anchoring, trawling, and bottoming by submarines is dangerous along the channel, but there are no restrictions in area (b) below.

a. Swept channel to Tonolei Harbor 0.5 mile wide with centerline 035° one mile from center of Aiaisina Island (6°51'45"S., 155°49'50"E.) in a 035° direction for 5.5 miles.

b. All that portion of Tonolei Harbor which lies to the N of the swept channel is free from danger due to mines.

4. Within Shortland Island Area, enclosed by the shore and joining the following positions is dangerous:

- a. 7°02'56"S, 155°51'12"E.
- b. 7°02'49"S, 155°52'19"E.
- c. 7°05'24"S, 155°53'34"E.

- d. 7°06'24"S, 155°52'54"E.
- e. 7°04'56"S, 155°51'24"E.

5. Within Malaita Island, the following area is considered safe for surface navigation, but vessels should not anchor, nor submarines bottom, within the line joining the following positions:

- a. Point 310°, 2.63 miles from Sail Rock (9°18'24"S., 161°20'00"E.), then in a 139° direction for 3.95 miles to:
- b. then in a 228° direction for 0.8 miles to:
- c. then in a 319° direction for 3.75 miles to:
- d. the position described in a above.

## Pilotage

Pilotage is compulsory for ships of over 200grt between the meridians of 159°57'E and 159°59'E, and S of the parallel 9°25'S.

Pilots board incoming ships between 1 and 2 miles from the port. Vessels arriving at night usually anchor to await daylight before berthing.

Vessels bound for Honiara are required to advise their ETA 24 hours in advance stating number of passengers, dangerous cargo, etc., to harbormaster, Honiara, via Honiara Radio.

## Time Zone

The Time Zone description is LIMA (-11).

## U.S. Embassy

The ambassador to Papua New Guinea is accredited to the Solomon Islands.